PTO/SB/21 (09-04) **Application Number** 09/664,294 NSMITTAL Filing Date September 18, 2000 **FORM** First Named Inventor Raciborski, Nathan F. Art Unit 2155 **Examiner Name** Kevin T. Bates (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Attorney Docket Number 019396-001300US Total Number of Pages in This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication to TC Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) Appeal Communication to Board Fee Attached Licensing-related Papers of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC Amendment/Reply Petition (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a After Final Proprietary Information Provisional Application Power of Attorney, Revocation Affidavits/declaration(s) Status Letter Change of Correspondence Address Other Enclosure(s) (please identify Extension of Time Request Terminal Disclaimer below): Return Postcard **Express Abandonment Request** Request for Refund Information Disclosure Statement CD, Number of CD(s) Landscape Table on CD Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Certified Copy of Priority Account 20-1430. Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name ewnsend and Townsend and Crew LLP Signature Thomas D. Franklin #43616 Printed name Melissa A. Haapala Date Reg. No. 47,622 May 9, 2005

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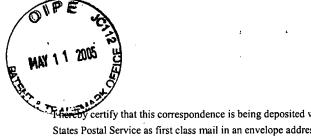
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TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of:

Nathan F. Raciborski et al.

Application No.: 09/664,294

Filed: September 18, 2000

For: SELF-PUBLISHING NETWORK

DIRECTORY

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 3787

Examiner:

Kevin T. Bates

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2155

APPELLANT BRIEF UNDER 37 CFR

<u>§41.37</u>

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Sir:

Appellants offer this Brief further to the Notice of Appeal mailed on April 28,

2005.

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1. Real Parties in Interest

Aerocast.com, Inc. is the real party in interest as the assignee of the above-identified application.

2. Related Appeals and Interferences

No other appeals or interferences are known that will directly affect, are directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board decision in this appeal.

3. Status of Claims

Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application. All pending claims stand finally rejected pursuant to a Final Office Action mailed January 28, 2005. The rejections of the claims are believed to be improper and are the subject of this appeal.

4. Status of Amendments

No amendments have been made subsequent to the Final Office Action of January 28, 2005.

5. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

In the following summary, Appellants have provided exemplary references to sections of the specification and drawings supporting the subject matter defined in the claims as required by 37 C.F.R. § 41.37. The specification and drawings also include additional support for other exemplary embodiments encompassed by the claimed subject matter. Thus, it should be appreciated that the references are intended to be illustrative in nature only.

Directories and directory systems are disclosed for cataloging information. The embodiment of claim 1 discloses a directory 104 for cataloging information on a network comprising a first conduit between the directory 104 and a first site 108, and a second conduit between the directory 104 and a second site 108. See <u>Application</u>, Figure 1, page 5, 1l. 7-9, page

7, 1l. 22-24. A receiver function accepts a first local catalog of directory information 316 from the first site 108, and a second local catalog of directory information 316 from the second site 108. <u>Id.</u>, Figure 3, page 12, ll. 19-28, page 40, ll. 16-26. The directory also comprises a global catalog of directory information 228 and a first timer. The global catalog of directory information 228 comprises the first local catalog 316 and the second local catalog 316. <u>Id.</u>, page 9, ll. 8-17. The first local catalog 316 is removed from the global catalog if the first site 108 fails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires. <u>Id.</u>, page 40, l. 27 - page 41, l. 10.

In the embodiment of claim 8, a directory 104 for cataloging information on the network comprises a plurality of connects to a plurality of sites 108. There is at least one connection per site and at least one of the plurality of connections is active at a time. <u>Id.</u>, Figure 1, page 7, ll. 22-24. A receiver accepts a plurality of local catalogs of directory information 316 from the plurality of sites 108. <u>Id.</u>, Figure 3, page 12, ll. 19-28, page 40, ll. 16-26. The directory further comprises a global catalog of directory information 228 and a first timer. The global catalog of directory information 228 comprises the plurality of local catalogs 316. <u>Id.</u>, page 9, ll. 8-17. If a first site 108 ails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires, a first local catalog 316 is removed from the global catalog 228. <u>Id.</u>, page 40, l. 27 - page 41, l. 10.

In the embodiment of claim 15, a directory system for cataloging information on a packet switched network is disclosed. The directory system includes a first site 108, a second site 108, and a third site. <u>Id.</u>, Figure 1. Each of the sites comprises directory information. <u>Id.</u>, Figure 3, page 12, Il. 19-28, page 40, Il. 16-26. The first directory information 316 for the first site is sent over the packet switched network 120 to the third site. <u>Id.</u> The second directory information 316 for the second site is also sent over the packet switched network 120 to the third site. <u>Id.</u> The first directory information 316 and the second directory information 316 are subsets of the third directory information 228. The first directory information 316 is removed from the third directory information 228 if the first site 108 fails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires. <u>Id.</u>, page 40, l. 27 - page 41, l. 10.

6. Grounds of Rejection Presented for Review

A. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,516,337 to Tripp et al. (hereinafter "Tripp") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,418,452 to Kraft et al. (hereinafter "Kraft").

7. Argument

A. Whether claims 1-21 are obvious over Tripp in view of Kraft.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Tripp in view of Kraft. For this rejection to be proper, the cited references must teach or suggest all of the recitations of these claims. Appellants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable as the rejection of these claims fails to meet this burden.

Claims 1-6, 8-21

Claim 1 recites a directory that comprises a global catalog of directory information. The global catalog comprises a first local catalog from a first site and a second local catalog from a second site. The directory also includes a first timer. The first local catalog is removed from the global catalog if the first site fails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires. Tripp and Kraft do not teach or suggest that a local catalog is removed from a global catalog if the site providing the catalog fails to autonomously report in before a timer expires.

Tripp discloses a search engine that comprises distributed components located at web hosts. <u>Tripp</u>, col. 5, 1l. 29-34. The agents report meta data about objects at the web hosts to a central server and the central server uses the meta data to generate an index to the Internet. <u>Id.</u> Each web site may also create one or more brochure files to provide conceptual information about the web site. As stated in Tripp, the purpose of the brochure file is to allow the web host

to provide specific non-HTML information to the central server to assist the central server in indexing the object metadata associated with the site. <u>Id.</u>, col. 13, ll. 37-41.

The Examiner has equated the brochure files to the local catalogs of directory information. See Final Office Action, page 2, last paragraph. In particular, the Examiner states that the removal of a brochure entry from a brochure database can be equated to the recitations of claim 1 of removing a first local catalog from a global catalog. Appellants respectfully assert that there are at least several flaws with the Examiner's assertion.

First, the brochure file is not a local catalog. Instead, it is merely a file used to provide non-HTML information about a site, such as demographic information and information about how to categorize the objects on the web site. <u>Tripp</u>, col. 5, ll. 38-43; col. 11, ll. 15-22. The conceptual information may be used so that more accurate search results may be generated in response to search queries. <u>Id.</u>, col. 5, ll. 43-46. But the brochure file is not a catalog of directory information.

Additionally, the removal of the brochure file from the brochure database is completely different than the removal of the first local catalog information as recited in claim 1. In Tripp, the central search engine (in particular the brochure check server component) periodically checks web sites for new brochures. <u>Id.</u>, col. 9, ll. 64-67. If a brochure file is missing for a given number of cycles, the brochure check server sends a request to the brochure database to delete the entry for the brochure. <u>Id.</u>, col. 10, ll. 11-14. The brochure file is not removed upon expiration of a timer associated with a site reporting in, but instead because it is missing from the web site.

Finally, as stated in the Office Action, Tripp does not disclose that a web site should autonomously report in. As just discussed, Tripp teaches just the opposite -- that the central search engine periodically checks the web site for the brochure file. <u>Id.</u>, col. 10, ll. 11-14.

Thus, the Examiner relies on Kraft to disclose a web site that autonomously reports in updates to a repository. However, Kraft does not disclose that a web site autonomously reports in. Instead, in Kraft a crawler machine may request file modification information from web server machines. Kraft, col. 5, ll. 19-22. The registered web servers can report web site modification information to the crawler when requested. Id., col. 5, ll. 41-42. There is no mention or suggestion in Kraft that the web servers autonomously report in modification information.

Appellants also object to the dissection of the recitation of claim 1 between the two references. The rejection of the recitation is illustrated below, in which the portions of the recitation that the Final Office Action states are taught by Tripp are underlined and the portions that the Final Office Action states are taught by Kraft are in bold.

"a first timer, wherein the first local catalog is removed from the global catalog if the first site fails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires.

As can be appreciated by the illustration, the recitation has been analyzed in a piecemeal fashion. The recitation includes an if condition (first site fails to autonomously report in) then take action (remove local catalog from global catalog). Neither reference teaches or suggests taking the specified action of removing catalog information from a global catalog upon the occurrence of the condition that the site fails to autonomously report in.

Since the references fail to teach or suggest the recitation of claim 1 discussed above, Appellants respectfully request the reversal of this rejection. Claims 8 and 15 contain recitations similar to those discussed with reference to claim 1. Claims 2-6, 9-14, and 16-21 depend from one of claims 1, 8, or 15. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is believed to be improper for at least the same reasons discussed with reference to claim 1.

Claim 7

Claim 7 depends from claim 1. Hence, the rejection of this claim is believed to be improper for at least the same reasons as claim 1 discussed above. Appellants also respectfully submit that the rejection of this claims is improper for additional reasons.

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In claim 7, the directory further comprises a directory web page adapted for display to a user. The directory web page organizes at least a plurality of content objects included in the global catalog by categories. The Final Office Action states that this is disclosed in the portion of Trip which states that the central search engine includes a brochure database. Final Office Action, page 4, first paragraph. However, a database is not a web page adapted for display to a user. The web page organizes content objects by categories. Thus, it is the web page displayed to the user that organizes the content objects, not an underlying database. Kraft also fails to teach or suggest a web page as recited by claim 7. Appellants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 7 is also improper for the additional reasons discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

The claims pending in the application are as follows:

- 1. (Previously Presented) A directory for cataloging information on a network, the directory comprising:
 - a first conduit between the directory and a first site;
 - a second conduit between the directory and a second site;
 - a receiver function to accept:
 - a first local catalog of directory information from the first site and
 - a second local catalog of directory information from the second

site;

a global catalog of directory information that comprises the first local catalog and the second local catalog; and

a first timer, wherein the first local catalog is removed from the global catalog if the first site fails to autonomously report in before a first timer expires.

- 2. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the first site and second site respectively reports the first local catalog and second local catalog to the receiver function according to a predetermined schedule.
- 3. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, wherein the first conduit and the second conduit each comprise the Internet.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second local catalogs provide location information for a plurality of content objects.

- 5. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 4, wherein the location information comprises at least two of a path, a file name, and an address.
- 6. (Previously Presented) The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, further comprising

a second timer, wherein

the second local catalog is removed from the global catalog if the second site fails to autonomously report in before the second timer expires.

- 7. (Previously Presented) The directory for cataloging information on a network as recited in claim 1, further comprising a directory web page that is coupled to the global catalog, the directory web page adapted for display to a user, the directory web page organizing at least a plurality of content objects included in the global catalog by categories.
- 8. (Previously Presented) A directory for cataloging information on the Internet, the directory comprising:

a plurality of connects to a plurality of sites, wherein:

there is at least one connection per site, and

at least one of the plurality of connections is active at a time;

a receiver to accept a plurality of local catalogs of directory information from the plurality of sites;

a global catalog of directory information that comprises the plurality of local catalogs; and

a first timer, wherein a first local catalog is removed from the global catalog if a first site fails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires.

- 9. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of sites periodically report their respective local catalog to the receiver.
- 10. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, wherein at least one of the plurality of connections comprise the Internet.
- 11. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, wherein the plurality of local catalogs provide location information for a plurality of content objects.
- 12. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 11, wherein the location information comprises at least two of a path, a file name, and an address.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, further comprising

a second timer, wherein:

a second local catalog is removed from the global catalog if a second site fails to autonomously report in before the second timer expires.

- 14. (Original) The directory for cataloging information on the Internet as recited in claim 8, further comprising at least one of a search web page and a directory web page that is coupled to the global catalog.
- 15. (Previously Presented) A directory system for cataloging information on a packet switched network, the directory system including:
 - a first site comprising first directory information;
 - a second site comprising second directory information; and

a third site comprising third directory information, wherein:

the first directory information is sent over the packet switched network to the third site,

the second directory information is sent over the packet switched network to the third site, and

the first directory information and second directory information is a subset of the third directory information; and

a first timer, wherein the first directory information is removed from the third directory information if the first site fails to autonomously report in before the first timer expires.

- 16. (Original) The directory system for cataloging information on the packet switched network as recited in claim 15, wherein each of the first site and second site respectively reports the first directory information and second directory information to the third site periodically.
- 17. (Original) The directory system for cataloging information on the packet switched network as recited in claim 15, wherein the packet switched comprises the Internet.
- 18. (Original) The directory system for cataloging information on the packet switched network as recited in claim 15, wherein the first and second directory information provides location information for a plurality of content objects.
- 19. (Original) The directory system for cataloging information on the packet switched network as recited in claim 18, wherein the location information comprises at least two of a path, a file name, and an address.
- 20. (Previously Presented) The directory system for cataloging information on the packet switched network as recited in claim 15, further comprising

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a second timer, wherein:

the second directory information is removed from the third directory if the second site fails to autonomously report in before the second timer expires.

21. (Previously Presented) The directory system of claim 15, wherein the first directory information includes content objects selected for publication to the third directory information by an administrator of the first site.

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EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.